



Tom Rasmussen
Seattle City Councilmember

February 10, 2015

Washington State Senate Transportation Committee
311 J.A. Cherberg Building
Olympia, WA 98504-0468

Washington State House Transportation Committee
260A John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to strongly urge your support for the request of Representatives Fitzgibbon, Cody, and Caldier to restore ferry terminal traffic control at the Fauntleroy ferry terminal. The unique location of this ferry dock poses serious challenges as the City seeks to balance the arterial traffic to and from the Washington State Ferry System (WSFS) with the many public safety concerns inherent to a dense residential neighborhood.

As a member of the Seattle City Council since 2004 and chair of the Transportation Committee, I am familiar with the gradual changes in funding for traffic management in this area since that time. The Legislature was for many years fully engaged as the steward of our state highway system, providing full funding for an experienced, off-duty traffic officer to safely direct the flow of vehicles, and issue citations as necessary, to help regulate the flow of vehicles between the WSFS and city streets.

With the many financial challenges facing the state over the past decade however, funding gradually decreased until we reached present conditions, which are simply not safe or sustainable. Traffic volumes at the ferry top over 5,100 vehicles daily which travel through a dense urban residential area with heavy pedestrian use and narrow roads.

Additionally, WSF has indicated that the foreseeable future will require the temporary closure of one of the Vashon Island terminals, resulting in the reduction of service and the expectation of increased traffic and ferry wait times in Fauntleroy. This potential service disruption will undoubtedly exacerbate an already very difficult situation. While I recognize that the State continues to experience financial constraints, I would ask that you grant this request for traffic safety and restore the funding for a traffic officer.

Thank you for your valuable and ongoing service and dedication to our state, and please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns about this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Tom Rasmussen

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